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The top property guide for Cannock, Heath Hayes, Penkridge, Great Wyrley, Rugeley, Hednesford, Burntwood and Lichfield

Marcia and Van at their eco-home at Broad Hazels

Van is the driving force behind eco-home initiative

LAST month on a crisp autumnal Sunday afternoon, Van and Marcia Taylor opened up their eco-friendly doors to the public.

This was done in order to show off their beautiful home and the benefits they have been reaping since they decided to change their fuel supply among other energy saving initiatives!

Sponsored by Morris Mellett Renewables (MMR), a family owned solar panel installation company, this public event was part two of the Staffordshire Annual Energy Review campaign.

Part one was held at the Guildhall, in Lichfield, where more than 100 members of the public came along to find out about energy saving tips and green initiatives that are currently being pushed in the UK. Chaired by Councillor David Smith, an interesting line up of speakers from the National Energy Saving Trust, Low Carbon Lichfield (LoCaL), Staffordshire Wood Fuel and sponsors Morris Mellett Renewables, while children were kept busy decorating their own 'footprint' cut outs.

Part two was just as encouraging, as people who just fancied a look came through the doors of Broad Hazels to see exactly how they could achieve low bills, clean, green living and extra income from their homes.

The Taylors chose Broad Hazels as their family home nestled on the edge of the Chase, down a leafy lane in the simply stunning Beaudesert Park.

Their retirement enabled Van and Marcia some well-earned thinking time and two years ago they began to question the cost of living, including the price of the oil.

Reading

Firstly, they made sure their property was insulated to current standards, changed to energy saving light bulbs and installed sun tubes in dark areas. Marcia's other fascination is with modern technology, and it was while reading an article about ground source heat pumps that she began to research alternative energy sources.

Marcia said: "I was so inspired and intrigued by the article about heat pumps that I spent days researching this technology and others – I knew I was on to something.

"I had this burning desire to find an alternative for oil which is, as we're all too aware, a finite source, dirty and expensive. I had dabbled with the gas board but that was way too expensive and so I persuaded Van to consider exploring the option of a ground source heat pump.

" Unfortunately due to us living on the edge of the chase there were too many knotty roots in our ground and a bore hole was just too expensive so it was not a viable option for us.

"However, we ploughed on with our research and found that we could get an air source heat pump instead.

"Our neighbours had installed solar pv panels on an outbuilding some years before so we knew about the technology, then when we got wind of the government's financial incentive and decided to seriously consider Solar PV ourselves."

Now Van and Marcia are enjoying a return of more than eight per cent for their investment which means they are likely to receive in advance of £20,000 plus inflation over the 25 year period. Van has become a total advocate of solar power and to this end has joined forces with his nephew's company Morris Mellett and has founded Morris Mellett Renewables in order to encourage other like-minded souls that there are alternative, effective energy sources.

"It's wonderful," said Van.

"Now everyone can play their part in helping to reduce their carbon emissions and at the same time benefit financially from the exercise without being held to ransom by extortionate electrical bills from national companies."

For more information about different energy sources or to book a place on a guided tour, or to see how your business or environmental group could get involved, call Van Taylor on 07887693257, Morris Mellett Renewables on 01952 610775 or Katie Whirledge on 07973 800 234 .

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£120,000 NEW PRICE

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Allington Drive, Heath Hayes

OIEO £150,000

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Hadden Close, Hinckley

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- No Upward Chain
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- Modern Family Home
- Must be Viewed

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We are duly instructed to offer for sale by inspection and over property. Any interested parties are invited to submit any higher offers in writing to the Sole Agents by no later than 12 noon on Wednesday 22nd December 2010. Bairstow Eves, 1000 Walsall Road Great Barr, Birmingham B42 1LN. Tel: 0121 357 1040

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Dorrell Way, Heath Hayes

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- Double Glazing And Central Heating

Hatherton Road, Cannock

£97,500 NEW PRICE

- Three Bedroom Semi Detached Family Home
- Refurbished Throughout
- Extended Lounge/Dining Room
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- Off Road Parking
- Viewing Highly Recommended
- Two Bedroom Ground Floor Maisonette
- Refurbished Throughout
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- Lounge/Dining Room
- Viewing Highly Recommended

Wolverhampton Road, Cannock

Offers over £115,000 NEW PRICE

- A Detached Period Property
- Two Double Bedrooms
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- Sun Room & Summer House
- Enclosed Rear Garden
- Double Glazing & Central Heating

New Street, Bridgetown

£60,000 NEW PRICE

- No Upward Chain
- A Traditional Style Terraced Property
- Two Bedrooms
- Two Reception Rooms
- Refitted Kitchen
- Refitted Bathroom

Green Lane, Small Heath

£75,000

- Three Bedroomed
- Two Reception Rooms
- Double Glazing
- Double Glazed Conservatory
- Off Road Parking

Silver Birch Road, Norton Canes

Offers Over £165,000

- Extended Throughout
- Two Double Bedrooms
- Spacious Lounge
- Dining/Kitchen
- Double Glazing And Central Heating (Not Conservatory)
- Off Road Parking

Claypark Court, Norton Canes

£120,000

- A Well Presented Three Bedroom Semi Detached Family Home
- Lounge/Conservatory
- Modern Fitted Kitchen
- Modern Bathroom
- Double Glazing And Central Heating
- Off Road Parking

PUBLIC NOTICE

180 Osborne Road, Small Heath, Birmingham, B11 1ET

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Millhurst Drive, Hednesford

Offers over £120,000

- Three Bedrooms
- Impressive Refitted Dining Kitchen
- Refitted Luxury Bathroom
- Double Glazing And Central Heating (Not Conservatory)
- Off Road Driveway and Garage